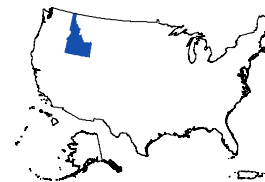


2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Idaho Summary

Customer Focus—

Pete and Mary Nemeth of St. Maries, Benewah County, Idaho

“We’ve lost five trees along here in the past few years,” said Nemeth. “The water just eats away the bank, undermining it.” Power-boats, spring runoff, and ice jams are to blame. The boats create a wake that pounds the river bank, taking bits of the soil with each wave. Millions of gallons of spring runoff take soil with it, and chunks of ice skim the shores and rip the bushes intended to stabilize the soil. “It’s just the nature of it,” said Nemeth, “but we need to do something to stop it.” With the help of \$237,541 from EQIP, Nemeth and other landowners along the St. Joe River will curb erosion along 5 miles of riverbank. Mark Addy, NRCS district conservationist, is working with landowners to develop conservation plans. “We have over 100 acres affected by the river and erosion,” said Nemeth. Work on the riverbanks began this fall. “We had to wait for the water drawdown of the Coeur d’Alene Lake before we could get back on the banks this year,” said Addy.

Rather than lining the bank in a heavy riprap, landowners are using a veneer of rock in the zone hammered by waves from boats. The top of the bank will hold vegetation. Pastureland will be fenced to keep cattle away from the bank to establish new vegetation. Some ranchers are putting in temporary electric fences so they can roll them up and put them back after high water. As with the rock veneer and other improvements, EQIP will pay for 75 percent of the cost of the fence, and landowners are responsible for 25 percent. The Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District is working to secure more money to pay a larger part of the cost, according to Addy. Until then, the landowners will use Federal dollars and their own money to control the erosion.

Overview

Idaho farmers and ranchers had overwhelming interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) during 2000. Nearly 248 landowners applied for funding, which totaled over \$5,040,443. NRCS helped landowners develop 144 contracts, which obligated nearly \$2,391,963 of Federal cost-share assistance.

Accomplishments

A total of 58,416 acres were put in conservation plans.

Outlook

Water quality and soil erosion are major conservation concerns in many areas in Idaho. Of the 168,142 acres included in applications, only 58,416 acres were put in conservation plans. Additional funding would result in more acres treated.

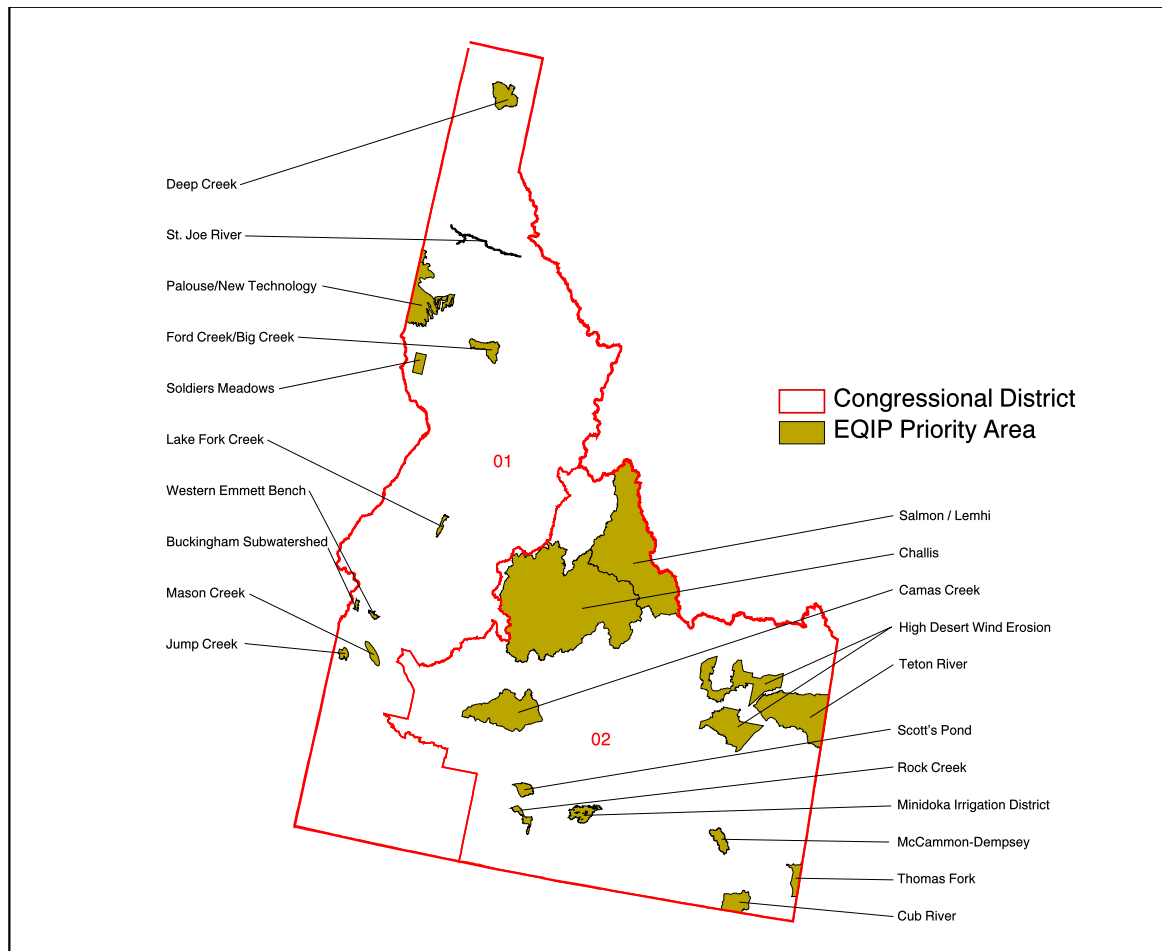
State Contact

Joyce Swartzendruber, Assistant State Conservationist (Operations), 208-378-5703

Pete and Mary Nemeth



Idaho EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Idaho EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$539,783	65	\$1,869,417	159
District 1	760,774	37	4,075,821	324
District 2	1,075,915	52	5,240,613	291
State Totals	\$2,376,472	154	\$11,185,851	774

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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